

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-4, 9-12 and 16-18. The Examiner has rejected the remaining pending claims. Applicants respectfully traverse.

A. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 6-8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,379,017 to Nakabayashi et al. (the “Nakabayashi” reference). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Anticipation requires that each and every limitation of the claim be disclosed by the prior art reference. Claim 6 as amended specifically requires “the second pocket is shaped to totally internally reflect a beam of light from the first pocket passing through the optical transit point and incident upon the second pocket to the optical exit point.” The Nakabayashi reference does not teach anywhere that the light is reflected by the first pocket, travels to the second pocket, and is totally internally reflected to the exit point. In fact, the Nakabayashi reference teaches to use the slits 31 to reflect light outside of the light guide member 3 to reflecting plate 4. In contrast, the invention claimed in claim 6 of the present invention reflects the light from the first pocket to the second pocket ensuring the light stays within the optically transparent volume. Therefore, the Nakabayashi reference cannot anticipate claim 6 as amended.

Similarly, claim 19 as amended specifically requires “wherein light shining through the transparent member is totally internally reflected by the first pocket directly to the second pocket.” As discussed *supra* with reference to claim 6, the Nakabayashi reference does not teach totally internally reflecting the light from the first pocket directly to the second pocket. In fact, the Nakabayashi reference teaches to use the slits 31 to reflect the light outside of light guide member 3 so as to hit the reflecting plate 4 to be reflected back through light guide member 3 to be observed

by the observer. Thus, the Nakabayashi reference does not teach each and every limitation of the claim as required to show anticipation under § 102(e).

Dependent claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 6 and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 6. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 7 and 8 are allowable over the references of record for at least the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 6.

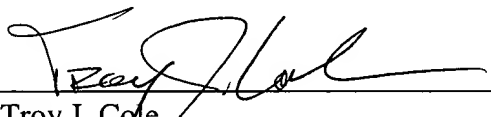
Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance and Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims. Should it facilitate allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

A check for \$930.00 is enclosed for a three-month extension of time. No other fees are believed necessary, however, should any other fees be required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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